CITY OF TAKOMA PARK MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

FROM: Suzanne Ludlow

Community and Government Liaison

DATE: July 20, 2004

SUBJECT: Planning Board Discussion of Approaches to Hospital Regulation

Attached is a copy of the agenda and staff report for Thursday's Planning Board discussion of options for regulating existing hospitals. At some time after 10 am on Thursday, the Planning Board will hear a staff briefing on options for changing the process that hospitals follow to get approval for site and facility changes. There will be no public comment at Thursday's meeting on this topic. Of the options presented, the one preferred by Park and Planning staff is to not require a special exception modification for every hospital change, but to require an enhanced site plan review process.

If the Planning Board is interested in a particular approach, Park and Planning staff will draft a text amendment which would then be discussed in the fall.

I have indicated to Glenn Kreger, Team Leader of Park and Planning's Silver Spring/Takoma Park Team, that I would recommend that the options for text amendments be discussed by the Takoma Park City Council. I did say that I personally believe certain proposed activities require more public discussion than normally occurs during a site plan review process.

City staff will report on the outcome of Thursday's Planning Board discussion.